NOVEMBER

FIFTH YEAR - No. 56

# International Review of the Red Cross



Inter arma caritas

1965

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# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

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#### FRENCH EDITION OF THE REVIEW

The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*. It is, in principle, identical with the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

#### SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

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#### SPANISH

Resoluciones adoptadas por la XX Conferencia Internacional de la Cruz Roja.

#### GERMAN

Die XX. Internationale Rotkreuzkonferenz. — Dr. P. Gregoric : Aktionsplan zur Verbreitung der Genfer Abkommen. — Gründungsdaten der Nationalen Gesellschaften von 1863 bis 1963.

## THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

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The International Committee of the Red Cross only assumes responsibility for material over its own signature.

# THE XXth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS 1

The XXth International Red Cross Conference was held from the 2nd to the 9th October 1965 in the striking setting of the Hofburg at Vienna. Well organised by the Austrian Red Cross with the help of personnel from the international organisations of the Red Cross, the Conference was cordially welcomed by leaders of the Austrian Government. Mr. Hans von Lauda, President of the Austrian National Society, presided with both authority and tact. The Secretary General was Mr. Hans Sevcik. The Conference was attended by 580 representatives of 92 National Societies and 84 governments.<sup>2</sup>

This Conference was of particular importance in that it was the first to be held in eight years. Its results were not disappointing. Those who attended agree that it was a magnificent demonstration of the unity and universality of the Red Cross. On numerous items of the agenda understanding was quickly established, and the spirit of agreement during the debates resulted in almost all resolutions being adopted practically unanimously.

Most significant results were without doubt achieved in the field of humanitarian law, a subject dealt with by one of the three Conference Commissions. Implementation and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, as usual, drew a great deal of attention. The belief of the community of nations in the authority of these fundamental charters and the need to ensure their application in all circumstances was never more strongly evident.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Plate: A plenary session; a meeting of the General Commission; vote during plenary session; the ICRC President visits two exhibitions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For its part, the ICRC prepared a basic documentation of 24 reports, several of which have been reproduced in the *International Review*.

In this regard the Conference appealed to all nations to assure the widest possible instruction in the Geneva Conventions among their armed forces, including those made available to the United Nations, and to take appropriate measures to repress violations of the Conventions, particularly by completing legislation to this effect.

Another major field was the protection of civilian populations against the dangers of modern warfare. The Conference encouraged studies by the ICRC in three directions: legal protection of these populations against indiscriminate warfare, the status of civil defence personnel, and improvement of consideration due to civilian medical and nursing personnel. It was recommended that the ICRC call together one or several important conferences of experts in the very near future.

Meanwhile the Conference recalled some great humanitarian principles which benefit the civilian population and which remain valid despite enormous technical advances. In the present obsolete condition of the laws of war which, as is well known, date from 1907, it is no exaggeration to consider the rules thus recalled as general principles of common law applicable today. They may be summarized as follows:

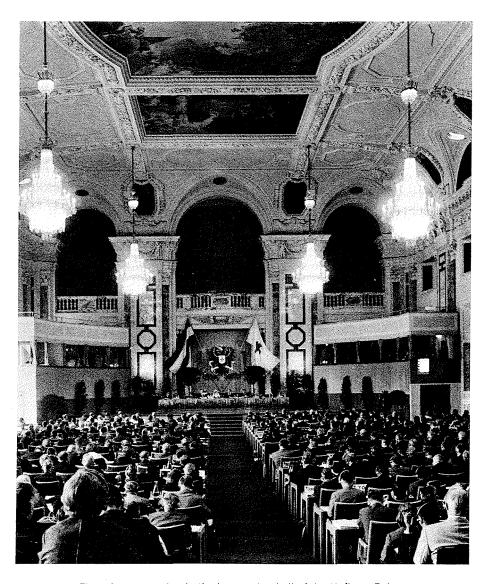
- Parties engaged in conflict do not have unlimited choice of methods to inflict damage on the enemy;
- it is forbidden to attack the civilian population per se;
- a distinction must be made, at all times, between persons taking part in hostilities and the civilian population so that the latter may be spared as much as possible;
- the general principles of the laws of war are applicable to nuclear and similar weapons.

In a brief report it is impossible to analyse all the resolutions adopted and published in the present number. We would mention here only that they deal also with the protection of victims of internal conflicts, the tracing of military graves, and the training of specialised personnel to supervise the application of the Geneva Conventions.

There was much work done by a General Commission as well as by the Health and Social Welfare and the Junior Red Cross Commissions,

# XXth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

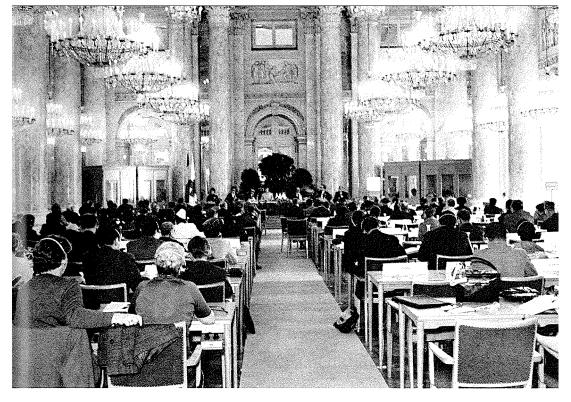
VIENNA, OCTOBER 1965



First plenary session in the banqueting hall of the Hofburg Palace.



A vote during the last plenary session.



Commission meeting.

Mr. MacAuley, former Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League (on left), in conversation with the Countess of Limerick, President of the Standing Commission, and Mr. von Lauda, Chairman of the XXth International Conference.





The President of the ICRC and Mrs. Gonard (centre), accompanied by Mr. von Lauda and Mr. Sevcik (right), visiting the exhibition organized on the occasion of the XXth International Conference by the Austrian Red Cross.

Later, they visited that of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R., presented to them by Mr. Miterev, President of the Society.



The Conference formally adopted the Declaration of Red Cross Principles which will hereafter be solemnly read at the opening of each Conference. The movement thus possesses a universal doctrine, a humanitarian basis common to all peoples.<sup>1</sup>

"The Red Cross as a Factor of World Peace" is a traditional subject, now more topical than ever. Despite opinions which, at the beginning, appeared divergent, agreement was finally reached on a constructive text in which the Conference "urges all governments to settle their international differences by peaceful means in the spirit of international law" and "encourages the International Committee of the Red Cross to undertake, in constant liaison with the United Nations Organisation and within the framework of its humanitarian mission, all efforts which might contribute to the prevention or settlement of armed conflicts".

Relief actions, radio communications, the creation of the Henry Dunant Institute, reuniting of families, preventive medecine, the donation of blood and nursing care were also among the questions discussed.

The Conference also elected the five members of the Standing Commission who join the four ex officio representatives of the ICRC and the League. Those appointed for a period of four years are: General Collins, President of the American Red Cross, Mr. von Lauda, President of the Austrian Red Cross, the Countess of Limerick, Vice-Chairman of the British Red Cross, Professor Miterev, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, and Dr. Newman-Morris, President of the Australian Red Cross. During its constitutive meeting, the Commission elected the Countess of Limerick as its Chairman.

For the location of its next meeting, three National Societies declared themselves ready to act as host. The choice of the Conference fell to Turkey. Thus the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross will be held at Istanbul in 1969.

\* \*

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See International Review, November 1961, in which the Red Cross Principles are already been set forth.

# RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE XXth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

T

Report on the Action taken on the Resolutions of the XIXth International Conference and of the Council of Delegates at its 1963 Session

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having received the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies on the action taken on the Resolutions of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Council of Delegates (Geneva, 1963),

accepts this report,

thanks the International Committee and the League for having submitted it.

II

#### Reports of National Societies

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the reports submitted by National Societies on their work,

receives those reports which concern Red Cross activities only, directs that they be filed,

thanks the National Societies which submitted them.

#### III

#### Reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having received the reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross on its work from 1957 to 1965,

takes note of these reports,

thanks the ICRC for having submitted them.

#### TV

#### Report of the League of Red Cross Societies

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having received the report of the League of Red Cross Societies on its work from 1957 to 1965,

takes note of this report,

thanks the League for having submitted it.

#### V

#### Empress Shôken Fund

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having received the Report on the Empress Shôken Fund presented by the Joint Commission of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies,

accepts this Report,

thanks the Joint Commission for its administration.

#### VI

#### Augusta Fund

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having received the Report on the Augusta Fund submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross,

accepts this Report,

thanks the ICRC for its administration.

#### VII

#### Florence Nightingale Medal

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having received the Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross on the Awards of the Florence Nightingale Medal, accepts this Report,

thanks the ICRC for its administration,

considers that the Florence Nightingale Medal is the highest international distinction awarded for great devotion and exceptional services in the field of nursing,

considers further that the great significance of the said Medal should be maintained.

recalls that a maximum of 36 Medals can be awarded every two years whereas there are at present 106 National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies,

recommends that National Societies

- 1. proceed with the greatest care in the choice of their candidates;
- propose only candidates to the ICRC which fully meet the criteria laid down in the Regulations approved by the XVIIIth International Conference of the Red Cross (Toronto, 1952);

3. facilitate the task of the ICRC by communicating to it as complete information as possible on candidates to enable it to make its selection in full knowledge of the facts.

#### VIII

#### Proclamation of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross

proclaims the following fundamental principles on which Red Cross action is based:

#### HUMANITY

The Red Cross, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours — in its international and national capacity — to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

#### IMPARTIALITY

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours only to relieve suffering, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

#### NEUTRALITY

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

#### INDEPENDENCE

The Red Cross is independent. The National Societies while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their Governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with Red Cross principles.

#### VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The Red Cross is a voluntary relief organisation not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

#### UNITY

There can be only one Red Cross Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

#### UNIVERSALITY

The Red Cross is a world-wide institution in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other.

#### IX

#### Reading of Principles

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

decides that the fundamental principles shall be solemnly read at the opening of every International Conference of the Red Cross.

#### X

#### The Red Cross as a Factor in World Peace

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting with satisfaction the Resolution entitled "Red Cross as a factor in World Peace" adopted by the Council of Delegates (Geneva, 1963),

recalling Resolutions previously adopted in this field particularly by the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross (New Delhi, 1957),

welcomes the efforts made by various Governments to eliminate the danger of armed conflicts through disarmament and, in particular, through the conclusion of the 1963 Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space, and under water and also the 1963 Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly banning the stationing of weapons of mass destruction in outer space,

expresses its profound anxiety with regard to the suffering endured by the populations of a number of countries where armed conflicts are being waged,

further expresses its deep concern at and deplores the repeated use of force directed against the independence or the right to self determination of all peoples,

urges all Governments to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in the spirit of international law,

appeals to all Governments to pursue their efforts to reach agreement on the ban of all nuclear weapon tests and on general and complete disarmament under effective international control as well as to consider taking such partial measures as the establishment of nuclear free zones and agreements for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

encourages the International Committee of the Red Cross to undertake, in constant liaison with the United Nations and within the framework of its humanitarian mission, every effort likely to contribute to the prevention or settlement of possible armed conflicts, and to be associated, in agreement with the States concerned, with any appropriate measures to this end,

urges the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies, the National Societies and Governments to redouble their efforts with a view to the universal and scrupulous application, in a spirit of humanity, of the Geneva Conventions, in all armed conflicts,

expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the ICRC, the League, the National Societies and Governments for the alleviation of suffering, and encourages them to continue such efforts in the future.

#### XI

#### Civic Education and International Unterstanding

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution No. XXXVII adopted at the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross (New Delhi, 1957), in which

Governments were exhorted in all their acts to obey the ideal of human fellowship and the humanitarian principles recognised by all nations,

confirming that the Red Cross aims to promote mutual international understanding and friendship between all countries by ensuring respect for the dignity of the human being,

considering that the ideal of world peace as the moral objective of the efforts of all nations can be achieved if these efforts are made with faith and perseverance despite the fact that this is a long-term undertaking,

aware of the fact that one of the most effective means of attaining the ideal of peace in the world is the "humanisation" of peoples in accordance with the motto "Per humanitatem ad pacem",

declaring that the humanisation of peoples cannot be effected without civic education of the masses in the spirit of international mutual understanding and human solidarity, this applying above all to the rising generations of the countries of the whole world, namely those who will hold the destinies of tomorrow in their hands,

considering that the level of civilisation of countries is determined by the degree of respect shown by each individual to his neighbour and by each nation to the international community,

expresses the wish that Governments conclude an universal cultural convention, in which they would undertake to initiate appropriate action to ensure the civic education of the younger generations within educational establishments at all levels — higher, secondary and primary — with the aim of making people realise that men just like States do not only have rights but also fundamental duties to respect, and make respected, the dignity of the human being as well as to contribute to the improvement of living conditions by every means of moral and material solidarity.

#### XII

#### Henry Dunant Medal

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

taking note of Resolution III adopted by the Council of Delegates (Geneva, 1963),

approves the creation of a Henry Dunant Medal,

congratulates the Australian Red Cross Society on its initiative and efforts in arranging for drawings and models to be made of this Medal,

thanks this Society for its generous contribution and agrees to its proposal to assume all the expenses involved in striking and issuing this Medal as well as in establishing diplomas,

decides that the Regulations for the Henry Dunant Medal shall be as follows:

#### REGULATIONS FOR THE HENRY DUNANT MEDAL

- The Henry Dunant Medal, created by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, is intended to constitute recognition and reward for outstanding services or acts of self-sacrifice in the cause of the Red Cross on the part of a member, whatever his rank within the movement.
- 2. The Henry Dunant Medal consists of a profile of Henry Dunant superimposed in relief on a red cross suspended on a green ribbon. When worn with any other Red Cross badge or decoration, this Medal takes precedence.
- 3. a) The Henry Dunant Medal will be awarded every two years to not more than five individuals considered worthy to receive it. According to circumstances, there may be fewer awards or none at all.
  - b) The Medal may be awarded on a posthumous basis.
  - c) In every exceptional case, when a member of the Red Cross has given proof of quite outstanding heroism or devotion, the Medal may be awarded immediately, irrespective of the dates imposed under paragraph a) of the present Article and, if necessary, in addition to the number of medals provided for therein.
- 4. a) The Medal shall be conferred by decision of the Standing Commission meeting in plenum, or, in the exceptional cases provided for in the last paragraph of the preceding Article, after written or telegraphic consultation of its members by the Chairman.
  - b) Generally speaking, the Central Committees of the National Societies shall submit proposals for awards to the International

Committee of the Red Cross or the League of Red Cross Societies, accompanied by the necessary supporting documents. The proposals shall be considered at a joint meeting by the ICRC and the League, which will select those to be forwarded to the Standing Commission. This Commission may not receive any proposals directly.

- c) Members of the Standing Commission are entitled to lay their own proposals before the Commission.
- 5. The Henry Dunant Medal shall be presented whenever possible by the Chairman of the Standing Commission in the presence of the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies at an international meeting of the Red Cross. In the event of the beneficiary being unable to attend such a ceremony, the President of the National Society, of which its recipient is a member, would be asked to represent the Chairman of the Standing Commission for the presentation.

#### XIII

#### Financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the report submitted by the Commission for the Financing of the International Committee of the Red Cross,

thanks the members of the Commission and renews until the next International Conference of the Red Cross the mandate with which they have been entrusted,

having noted the constant lack of balance between the annual financial resources made available to the ICRC and the needs arising from the activities it is obliged to carry out in application of the Geneva Conventions,

having noted further that it is in the first place incumbent on Governments parties to the Geneva Conventions to furnish the ICRC with the financial resources essential to it in the fulfilment of its obligations,

recalling the Resolution adopted by the 1949 Diplomatic Conference in the terms of which Governments represented at that

Conference recognised the necessity of providing regular financial support for the ICRC,

makes an urgent appeal to all Governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions that they include in their budgets a voluntary annual contribution to the ICRC. The amount of these contributions should be set or increased so as to represent a fair share of the total expenditure of the ICRC which, at present, exceeds five million Swiss francs per annum.

#### XIV

#### Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having received the report on the Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross submitted by the Council of this institution,

accepts the report,

thanks the Council for its administration,

appoints as members of the Board until the next International Conference of the Red Cross Messrs. Henrik Beer and Nedim Abut.

#### XV

#### Red Cross International Radio Communication Network

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the report presented by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies on the subject of the establishment of a Red Cross international radio communication network,

notes with satisfaction the results already obtained and invites the two international institutions and National Societies to continue their efforts in this field,

expresses to the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunications Union at present meeting in Montreux, to the Governments members of the Union and to the Secretariat of the Union its sincere gratitude for the facilities already granted and the help given and

expresses the wish that they will continue to co-operate in the establishment of the Red Cross international emergency radio communication network.

#### XVI

#### Telecommunication Facilities for the Red Cross

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting that the need for quick Red Cross intervention in time of conflict or disaster obliges National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to use the telephone, cable and telex to an increasing extent,

regretting that the expenses of the communications diminish the already insufficient resources available to Red Cross organisations for aid to conflict and disaster victims,

considers that the telecommunications of National Societies and the international institutions of the Red Cross should in these emergency situations benefit from priority at the lowest possible cost,

asks the ICRC and the League Secretariat to make continued efforts in this direction, in particular by approaching the International Telecommunications Union,

requests National Societies to study with the official or private telecommunications organisations of their countries the granting of such facilities,

recommends that Governments consider appropriate ways and means by which the costs of the Red Cross for telecommunications in such emergencies could be reduced or covered.

#### XVII

#### International Relief Actions — Planning and Co-ordination

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the report presented by the Secretary General of the United Nations to the General Assembly at its twentieth session on assistance in cases of natural disaster as well as of the Resolution adopted on this subject by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-ninth session,

expresses its satisfaction at the interest taken by the United Nations in this question and at its desire to co-operate with non-governmental organisations, and in particular the Red Cross, in reducing the distress caused by natural disasters,

assures the United Nations of the support of National Societies and the international bodies of the Red Cross and of their intention to step up still further their actions of mutual aid,

underlines the importance of disaster relief planning,

stresses the necessity, at the national level, of centralising the management of relief operations and co-ordinating the efforts made by the Government, the National Society and other organisations to help the disaster victims,

invites Governments and National Societies to take the necessary steps for this purpose as a matter of urgency,

asks the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies to maintain its contacts with the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies in the field of international relief, to continue to encourage and assist National Societies in their organisation and preparedness for relief actions, in particular by providing the necessary technicians, giving them the benefit of the experience of sister Societies and contributing to the training and preparation of their personnel.

#### XVIII

#### International Relief Actions — Revision of Principles

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

bearing in mind the experience of National Societies, the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red

Cross in the field of international relief actions, on the national and international levels, and the fact that these actions constitute one of the most important fields of activity of the Red Cross,

recalling the Resolutions adopted by International Conferences of the Red Cross and the Resolution adopted by the Board of Governors of the League in Oslo in 1954 on the principles applicable to relief actions,

taking note of the reports submitted to and the discussions held at the XXth International Conference,

recognising that relief actions are an expression of international solidarity and that the extending of relief strengthens the friendly relations among peoples and thus contributes to the consolidation of world peace,

recommends that these principles be revised and brought up to date in the light of the Red Cross basic principles and the experience gained, and that they be assembled in a compendium of relief principles and rules,

requests the League and the ICRC to prepare this compendium in collaboration with National Societies and to submit a proposal to the next International Conference.

#### XIX

#### Reunion of Dispersed Families

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having, from the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross, taken cognizance of the humanitarian results which have been obtained on the basis of Resolution No. XX of the International Conferences of Toronto and New Delhi,

thanks Governments, the ICRC and National Societies for their active participation,

notes that some dispersed families envisaged in the above Resolutions have not yet been reunited,

expresses the wish that all competent Red Cross bodies and all Governments continue and intensify their efforts in order to

complete this humanitarian action, which serves the cause of understanding and peace,

recommends that, until such reunions are achieved, human contacts between members of dispersed families be facilitated,

recommends, furthermore, that National Societies take action in this sphere as the natural intermediaries with their Governments to find a solution to this humanitarian problem and to proceed to have consultations with them, as well as with the ICRC.

#### XX

#### **Maintenance Obligations**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recommends that National Societies approach their Governments with a view to these Governments' adhering to the Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance Obligations concluded in New York in 1956.

#### XXI

#### Implementation and Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that by virtue of Article 47 of the First Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, Article 48 of the Second Convention, Article 127 of the Third Convention and Article 144 of the Fourth Convention the Contracting Parties have undertaken to give the widest possible dissemination, both in time of peace and war, to the texts of the Conventions in their respective countries and in particular to introduce the study thereof into the military and, if possible, civilian instruction syllabuses so that the principles may be known by the whole population,

considering that the application of these Articles is of the greatest importance in ensuring the observance of these Conventions,

considering further that it is essential that members of the armed forces have adequate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions,

appeals to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions to make increased efforts to disseminate and apply these Conventions, in particular by including the essential principles of the Conventions in the instruction given to officers and troups,

further appeals to National Societies to strengthen their activities and to co-operate with their Governments in this field,

expresses the wish that Governments and National Societies submit periodic reports to the International Committee of the Red Cross on the steps taken by them in this sphere,

notes with satisfaction and gratitude the efforts made by the ICRC to ensure the application of the Geneva Conventions and requests it to continue with this task.

#### XXII

### Personnel for the Control of the Application of the Geneva Conventions

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross.

noting that in conflicts occurring throughout the world the Geneva Conventions, which have been ratified by a large number of States to mitigate the hardships these conflicts cause, are still not rigorously applied in all cases,

recalling that Articles 8 and 9, common to the four Conventions, oblige Parties to the conflict to facilitate, to the greatest possible extent, the task of the Protecting Power entrusted with co-operating in the application of the Conventions and controlling this application,

considering that with a view to ensuring the application of the humanitarian Conventions and the scrutiny of this application it is essential to make available — in the event of a conflict — to the Protecting Powers and their possible substitutes a sufficient number of persons capable of carrying out this scrutiny impartially,

invites the States parties to the Conventions to envisage the possibility of setting up groups of competent persons for the discharge of these functions, entrusted to them in the Conventions,

under the direction of the Protecting Powers or their possible substitutes,

expresses the wish that the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has declared itself prepared to do so, contribute to the training of these persons.

#### XXIII

#### **Tracing of Burial Places**

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the tracing of persons reported missing in times of armed conflict has always been an important task devolving on the Red Cross, in keeping with the spirit of the Geneva Conventions.

further considering that the tracing of burial places of persons killed during conflicts and the identification of such persons are important ways and means for carrying out such tracing,

recommends

- the exchange among National Societies in agreement with their respective Governments and in co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, of all available data concerning these places of burial;
- 2. the tracing, by any appropriate means, of places of burial which have not so far been registered;
- 3. recourse, in the event of exhumation, to all possible identification procedures with the help of specialist services;
- consultation among the National Societies concerned, in cooperation with the ICRC, in order to implement the recommendations contained in this resolution.

#### XXIV

#### Treatment of Prisoners of War

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling the historic role of the Red Cross as a protector of victims of war,

considering that only too often prisoners of war find themselves helpless and that using of prisoners of war as object of retaliation is inhumane,

recognising that the international community has consistently demanded humane treatment for prisoners of war and the facilitation of communication between prisoners of war and the exterior, and condemned reprisals directed against them,

calls upon all authorities involved in an armed conflict to ensure that every prisoner of war is given the treatment and full measure of protection prescribed by the Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of prisoners of war, including the judicial safeguards afforded to every prisoner of war charged with any offence, and that the International Committee of the Red Cross is enabled to carry out its traditional humanitarian functions to ameliorate the condition of prisoners of war.

#### XXV

#### Application of the Geneva Conventions by the United Nations Emergency Forces

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the States parties to the Geneva Conventions have undertaken to respect them and make them respected in all circumstances,

considering further that it is necessary for the "United Nations Emergency Forces" to respect these Conventions and be protected by them, expresses its satisfaction at the practical measures already taken by the United Nations,

#### recommends

- that appropriate arrangements be made to ensure that armed forces placed at the disposal of the United Nations observe the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and be protected by them;
- that the Governments of countries making contingents available to the United Nations give their troups — in view of the paramount importance of the question — adequate instruction in the Geneva Conventions before they leave their country of origin as well as orders to comply with these Conventions;
- 3. that the authorities responsible for the contingents agree to take all the necessary measures to prevent and suppress any breaches of the said Conventions.

#### XXVI

#### Repression of Violations of the Geneva Conventions

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution VI adopted by the Council of Delegates (Geneva, 1963),

further recalling that according to Article 49 of the Ist Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, Article 50 of the IInd Convention, Article 129 of the IIIrd Convention and Article 146 of the IVth Convention, Governments have the obligation to provide penal sanctions in cases of violations of the Geneva Conventions,

thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for the efforts it has made to study the question of suppressing violations of the Geneva Conventions,

requests the ICRC to continue its work,

further requests Governments, National Societies and institutions of comparative law to give the ICRC their full support and the information required for a study of this problem,

appeals to Governments which have so far not done so to complete their legislation so as to ensure adequate penal sanctions for violations of these Conventions, and

requests the ICRC to submit a report on the results achieved to the next International Conference and to make this the subject of a publication for the general public.

#### XXVII

### Protests regarding Alleged Violations of the Humanitarian Conventions

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

after examining the Report submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross on protests regarding alleged violations of the humanitarian Conventions,

whereas the aim in transmitting such protests to an accused party is that a full enquiry should be opened and a detailed report made,

considering that this procedure has never yielded any concrete results,

takes note that the ICRC will no longer transmit such protests, except in the absence of any other regular channel, where there is need of a neutral intermediary between two countries directly concerned.

#### XXVIII

## Protection of Civilian Populations against the Dangers of Indiscriminate Warfare

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross.

in its endeavours for the protection of the civilian population, reaffirms Resolution No. XVIII of the XVIIIth International

Conference of the Red Cross (Toronto, 1952), which, in consideration of Resolution No. XXIV of the XVIIth International Conference of the Red Cross (Stockholm, 1948) requested Governments to agree, within the framework of general disarmament, to a plan for the international control of atomic energy which would ensure the prohibition of atomic weapons and the use of atomic energy solely for peaceful purposes,

thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for the initiative taken and the comprehensive work done by it in defining and further developing international humanitarian law in this sphere,

states that indiscriminate warfare constitutes a danger to the civilian population and the future of civilisation,

solemnly declares that all Governments and other authorities responsible for action in armed conflicts should conform at least to the following principles:

- that the right of the parties to a conflict to adopt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited;
- that it is prohibited to launch attacks against the civilian populations as such;
- that distinction must be made at all times between persons taking part in the hostilities and members of the civilian population to the effect that the latter be spared as much as possible;
- that the general principles of the Law of War apply to nuclear and similar weapons;

expressly invites all Governments who have not yet done so to accede to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 which prohibits the use of asphyxiating, poisonous, or other gases, all analogous liquids, materials or devices, and bacteriological methods of warfare,

urges the ICRC to pursue the development of International Humanitarian Law in accordance with Resolution No. XIII of the

XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross, with particular reference to the need for protecting the civilian population against the sufferings caused by indiscriminate warfare,

requests the ICRC to take into consideration all possible means and to take all appropriate steps, including the creation of a committee of experts, with a view to obtaining a rapid and practical solution of this problem,

requests National Societies to intervene with their Governments in order to obtain their collaboration for an early solution of this question and urges all Governments to support the efforts of the International Red Cross in this respect,

requests all National Societies to do all in their power to persuade their Governments to reach fruitful agreements in the field of general disarmament.

#### XXIX

#### Personnel of Civil Defence Services

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

referring to Resolution VII adopted by the Council of Delegates (Geneva, 1963),

having taken note of the report submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the "Status of Personnel of Civil Defence Services".

having heard the views expressed during the debates on this report:

- 1. recognises the necessity of strengthening the protection provided by international law to civil defence bodies;
- 2. requests the ICRC to continue its work in this field on the basis of the report and comments made at the present Conference and to convene a further meeting of experts.

#### XXX

#### Protection of Civil Medical and Nursing Personnel

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognising the interest attached to ensuring a better protection for civil medical and nursing personnel in the event of international conflicts or internal disturbances,

thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross for having presented a report on this subject, approves its basic elements and expresses the wish that the whole question and especially the problem of the distinctive sign and the possibility of the extension for this purpose of the use of the red cross, red crescent or red lion and sun emblem should be given more detailed study with the collaboration of Government and Red Cross experts as well as with the assistance of the World Health Organization and interested professional circles,

requests that the conclusions reached in this study be submitted to the next International Conference of the Red Cross unless the problem is solved earlier.

#### XXXI

#### Protection of Victims of Non-International Conflicts

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross.

considering that during armed conflicts not of an international character and internal disturbances occurring in recent years, it has not been possible to ensure sufficient protection for the victims of these conflicts and in particular the prisoners and detainees,

considering further that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 contain in Article 3, common to them all, the provisions applicable to these conflicts,

having taken note of the report of the Committee of Experts convoked by the International Committee of the Red Cross to meet from 25 to 30 October 1962,

urges the ICRC to continue its work with the aim of strengthening the humanitarian assistance of the Red Cross to victims of non-international conflicts,

recommends that Governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions and National Societies support these efforts in their respective countries.

#### XXXII

#### Use of the Emblems by National Societies

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

approves the Regulations on the use of the emblem of the red cross, red crescent and red lion and sun by National Societies contained in the report on this subject submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross,

requests the ICRC to undertake the publication and distribution to National Societies of the text, after taking into account the few minor drafting alterations proposed during the discussion.

#### XXXIII

#### Instruction of Medical Personnel in the Geneva Conventions

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross.

whereas all professional and auxiliary, military and civilian medical personnel should have a thorough knowledge of its rights and duties under the 1949 Geneva Conventions,

considering the engagements contracted by the Governments which are parties thereto as regards the Conventions and their dissemination,

considering the wish of the XVIIth International Conference set forth in its Resolution No. LII, paragraphs 3-4,

urges the Governments and National Societies to intensify and co-ordinate their efforts to disseminate the 1949 Geneva Conven-

tions among the medical personnel of their country, by introducing this subject in the compulsory syllabi of nursing and assistant nurses' schools, and including it in all courses for Red Cross voluntary auxiliaries and first aiders.

#### XXXIV

#### Red Cross Contribution to Civil Defence

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering the importance of the question of the protection of civilian populations in all circumstances where they are threatened, whether it be a question of natural disasters or conflicts of whatever kind,

reaffirms the mission of the Red Cross, the auxiliary of the public authorities, to make its contribution to civil defence tasks.

considering further the differences as between one country and the next in the conception of civil defence itself and thereby in the tasks assigned to it,

recalls that the main role of the Red Cross is to give the victims humanitarian assistance,

considering that circumstances can occur, where only the Red Cross would be able to go into action, this being especially due to the universal respect in which the red cross, red crescent or red lion and sun emblem is held and also to the fact that the Red Cross acts within the framework of basic principles offering the best guarantees to all,

recommends to Governments and National Societies that in any arrangements made for associating the Red Cross with civil defence services the Red Cross remains at all times able to undertake those tasks for which it is traditionally qualified so that it will be fully ready to play its role in cases where it would have to act on its own,

considering that the activities of the Red Cross in the field of civil defence could only benefit from the existence of Red Cross intervention units enjoying an international status,

recommends National Societies, the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross to continue with or undertake all studies enabling progress in this direction to be made with a view to their immediate implementation whenever the necessity arises.

#### XXXV

## Development of National Societies in the Fields of Health, Social Welfare and Education

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

conscious of the beneficial results of effective collaboration between the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies and the United Nations, its Specialised Agencies and other international non-governmental organisations,

aware of the value and importance of good working partnerships between National Societies and governmental, health, education and welfare agencies, especially in developing countries,

stresses the need to promote and expand such working partnerships at both national and international levels,

draws the attention of Governments to the role which National Societies can play in the humanitarian field in their own territories by promoting measures related to the Development Programme approved by the Board of Governors of the League in Vienna in 1965, and

recommends that National Societies establish and/or extend health, education and welfare programmes for youths and adults alike in collaboration with governmental and other non-governmental voluntary agencies to meet specific needs in developing areas.

#### XXXVI

#### Health in the Home

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that "Health in the Home" instruction aims above all at mitigating suffering, preventing illness and promoting health thereby furthering the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross, recommends that the Governments of developing countries favour the establishment or extension at national level of Health in the Home instruction to ensure a better development of this instruction, especially in rural areas, with the co-operation of their National Societies.

#### XXXVII

#### Future Tasks for Red Cross Youth

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having dealt with the questions of health, social work, humanitarian law and youth,

recognising the important contribution education can make to the solution of the problems involved and thereby the importance of the Junior Red Cross as an essential element of education and action.

recalls in this connection the recommendations of the World Conference of Educators (Lausanne, August 1963) unanimously adopted by the Council of Delegates (Geneva, September 1963),

recognises the contribution made by the Junior Red Cross to the development of new educational and practical methods, in particular in the fields of health education, training of young people in first aid, programmes of social welfare assistance and service and the dissemination of the Red Cross Principles and the Geneva Conventions.

aware of the important role which the Junior Red Cross can and must play in the implementation of the League of Red Cross Societies' Development Programme,

welcomes the relations and the co-operation which the League has developed with international governmental and non-governmental organisations interested in youth questions and the encouraging results obtained,

invites National Societies to give more effective support and encouragement to the work of their Junior Red Cross Sections, notably by giving them specific tasks,

#### RESOLUTIONS

recommends that governmental authorities, in particular the Education, Health and Social Service Authorities, consider the Junior Red Cross as an important factor in the solution of the problems at present facing the youth of the whole world, especially in developing countries, and further consider the Red Cross and its Junior Sections as a reserve of voluntary auxiliaries prepared to give their assistance in actions for the benefit of the community.

#### XXXVIII

#### Co-operation with United Nations Bodies

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the co-operation of the League of Red Cross Societies with the World Health Organization has proved profitable for both institutions,

recalls Resolution No. XXIII of the XIXth International Conference of the Red Cross and Resolution No. 15 of the XXVIth Session of the Board of Governors of the League,

requests the League to continue to co-ordinate its project planning in the future with that of the WHO and other international specialised agencies, such as UNICEF and UNESCO, in particular with regard to the world campaign for universal literacy.

#### XXXXIX

## Appointment of Members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

appoints as members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross for the period up to the next International Conference: General James F. Collins (USA), Dr. Hans von Lauda (Austria), the Countess of Limerick (United Kingdom), Professor Dr. Gueorgui A. Miterev (USSR) and Dr. Geoffrey Newman-Morris (Australia).

#### XL

### Place and Date of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

gratefully accepts the invitation of the Turkish Red Crescent Society to hold the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross in Istanbul in 1969.

#### Votes of Thanks

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross,

tenders its respectful greetings to Dr. Franz Jonas, President of the Republic of Austria, and thanks him for the keen interest he has taken in the Conference,

presents its respectful thanks to Dr. Josef Klaus, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, for his eloquent speech to the Conference at the opening meeting and also for the reception given by him at the Belvedere Palace,

requests the Austrian Government to accept its deep gratitude for the very generous financial assistance in the organisation of the Conference and for all the support this Government has given to the cause of the Red Cross, thereby showing the keen interest it takes in the Movement's humanitarian work.

thanks the Mayor of Vienna, Mr. Bruno Marek, for the very pleasant reception given by him in the Town Hall on 6 October and for the kind speech he made to the participants on this occasion,

wishes to thank very sincerely the Austrian Red Cross, its President, Dr. von Lauda, its leaders, its members, its Junior Red Cross groups and the transport services for the smooth running of the Conference and for the friendly and warm welcome they extended to the Delegates as well as for the very pleasant social events, to which the participants were invited, in particular the

#### RESOLUTIONS

evening at the Opera, the Austrian fashion show organised by Mrs. von Lauda, the concert of the Vienna Boys Choir and the very fine exhibition of Austrian Red Cross material,

presents its deep appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency for kindly authorising the use of its installations in the Hofburg as well as for its assistance and technical advice in the preparation of Conference publications and documents,

thanks the firms which put many vehicles at the disposal of Delegates for their transport arrangements during the Conference,

having noted the full and completely unprejudiced coverage given by the Austrian press to the debates at this XXth Conference,

requests the Chairman of the Conference kindly to convey to the leaders of the Austrian press its thanks and congratulations.

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

#### EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

#### India and Pakistan

Prisoners of War. — Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in both India and Pakistan have been permitted to visit prisoners of war; both governments have demonstrated their intention to apply the Geneva Conventions of 1949 on the protection of victims of war. Mr. Roger Du Pasquier in India and Mr. Michel Martin in Pakistan were therefore given access to several places of internment and were authorized to interview prisoners without witnesses. The delegates' reports were conveyed each time to the Detaining Power and the government of the prisoners' country of origin. Mr. Du Pasquier was also able to see prisoners of war who had been wounded in the course of the fighting.

The prisoners in India have been authorized to write to their families and the first batch of letters and capture cards has been sent to Geneva, from where the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency will transmit them to Karachi. Mr. Du Pasquier has also transmitted the first lists of Pakistani prisoners and these were immediately forwarded to the Pakistan Embassy in Berne.

In Pakistan, Mr. Martin requested that Indian prisoners be authorized to correspond with their families. At the beginning of October, the Pakistan Red Cross sent some letters to Geneva and these were immediately forwarded to New Delhi. In addition, Mr. Martin has received lists of prisoners of war and interned Indian civilians.

Refugees. — Military operations and air raids in both countries have given rise to serious population movements. According to

information gathered by Mr. Du Pasquier and observations in the course of several visits in the border regions of the Punjab and of Jammu, the number of refugees in India is estimated to be over 200,000.

Mr. Martin too has visited several reception centres set up by the West Pakistan authorities in the border regions where some of the 120,000 civilians fleeing from the fighting zones have been given shelter.

In spite of the measures taken by the authorities and the National Red Cross Societies and despite the generosity of the local population, the plight of these refugees is distressing. They left their homes in haste without any possessions and after several days' journey in the high valleys their clothing was worn to rags. Their homes have been destroyed so that for most of them there is no prospect of returning to their villages in the near future. Approaching winter makes urgent assistance in the form of food, clothing, blankets, tents and medical supplies all the more necessary. After despatching its first emergency consignments whilst fighting was still going on, the ICRC asked the League of Red Cross Societies to appeal to National Societies to contribute to the action undertaken by the Indian and Pakistan Red Cross Societies for the benefit of refugees.

#### Viet Nam

On behalf of refugees in the South. — Mr. André Tschiffeli, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in South Viet Nam, went with representatives of the Viet Nam Red Cross on September 30 to the village of Vinh-Kim in the Mytho region, in order to distribute relief supplies of rice, milk, children's food, material and blankets to 200 refugee families. These families consisted mainly of elderly people, women and children.

A second distribution in the same district took place on October 3 to a further 200 families, also in distress, living in the disused sheds of an abandoned brick works. Some refugees living on the river banks in "sampans" (small boats frequently found in the Far East) were also given supplies.

During these distributions, young men and women from the local Red Cross assisted the doctors and nurses who had come from Saigon with the ICRC delegate, and who, in an ambulance and under canvas, examined and treated many patients.

Relief consignments to the North and to the NLF.—The ICRC has sent to Hanoi by air, via Peking, a consignment of relief supplies in the form of antibiotics and dressing material for the benefit of victims of the conflict. This consignment was sent to the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, to which the ICRC had already sent Sw. Fr. 50,000 from its reserve funds. Several National Red Cross Societies have announced their intention to participate in this action and have sent donations to the ICRC.

Thanks to the contributions received, the International Committee of the Red Cross has also sent medical and surgical supplies to the delegate in Moscow of the National Liberation Front of South Viet Nam for the benefit of the war victims on territory under NLF control.

## The President of the ICRC in the Irish Republic and in Great Britain.

Following an invitation from the Irish Red Cross Society, the President of the ICRC and Mrs. Gonard, accompanied by Mr. Borsinger, spent several days in Ireland. They were present at the Society's Triennial Convention which met at Athlone in the centre of the country and which was attended by some hundreds of delegates representing its provincial branches.

The President of the ICRC had the opportunity of describing the Institution's present activities and of commenting on the favourable development of the XXth International Red Cross Conference.

The ICRC President, after being received by Mr. de Valera, President of the Republic, paid a visit to the Prime Minister, Mr. Sean Lemass, and also to General MacEoin, Chief of the General Staff of the Irish Army.

The ICRC delegation left Dublin for London, where it met various leading personalities of the British Red Cross and visited one of the hospital centres of this National Society.

#### IN GENEVA

#### Visit by the Chairman of the League

As we have mentioned elsewhere, Mr. José Barroso Chavez, who has just been appointed Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League, paid a visit to the ICRC on his return from Vienna. He was received by the President, Mr. Gonard. Several members of the ICRC and staff were also present.

Mr. Barroso Chavez was accompanied by Mr. H. Beer, Secretary General, and some members of the League's Secretariat.

#### A clarification by the ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross has studied the declaration of the President of the United States of America according to which he has expressed his intention of accepting on American soil Cuban nationals wishing to expatriate themselves. Since its name has been mentioned in this declaration, the ICRC wishes to point out the following: if an agreement is realized through diplomatic channels and if the Cuban Government and the Government of the United States desire the co-operation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the latter would be pleased to contribute, on the strictly humanitarian level which is its own, to the success of the action.

#### IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

#### BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE LEAGUE

#### Election of the new Chairman

The 28th session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies opened in Vienna on September 28, 1965.

The delegations of 83 National Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies met in the banqueting hall of the Hofburg Palace and were presided over by Mr. John A. MacAulay, Chairman of the Board of Governors and Vice-President of the Canadian Red Cross.

By unanimous vote the Board welcomed two new members into the federation, the National Societies of Uganda and Niger<sup>1</sup>, and confirmed the admission of those of Jamaica and Nepal. There are now a total of 106 members of the League.

The Board then adopted the highest budget ever proposed throughout the League's 46 years of existence. It also approved a special budget of more than 2 million Swiss francs for the financing of the development programme for the new Societies. Finally, it made certain important modifications to the League by-laws and designated the Netherlands as the seat for the next Board of Governors in 1967.

At the meeting on October 1, Mr. José Barroso Chavez was elected Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League in succession to Mr. MacAulay, who had held that office since 1959.

President of the Mexican Red Cross since 1964, Mr. Barroso has been a member of the Central Committee of the Mexican Red Cross

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The latter with the reservation of the ICRC's definite recognition.

#### IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

since 1959. Born in Mexico in 1925 and a graduate of La Salle University (Contador privado C.P.), he is President of the Hispano-Mexican cultural institute and President of directing bodies of various Mexican industries. This is the first time that a Latin-American personality has been elected to the highest office of the League.

After nomination, the new Chairman of the Board of Governors delivered an address, whose conclusion we now give below:

We live in times of great commotion; disasters, wars, misery, sickness: but besides these scourges we find immense human reserves, in the forefront of which are our Red Cross Societies. We for our part do everything possible to ensure that these human reserves are each day more effective and become a marvellous instrument to give effect in all quarters of the globe to our founder's ideal.

Basically we work for peace and solidarity among the nations. May the countries to which our 106 Societies belong never be involved in armed conflicts; this should be our ideal and should constitute the aim of our full determination.

I feel extremely proud to belong to a National Society like ours which works indefatigably for the good of humanity. Through it I have learnt to love and serve my fellowmen. Whatever is done with love will prosper and bear fruit. This shall be my sentiment throughout the discharge of my office.

To my friends of Latin America I say that the honour extended to Mexico through my person may be considered as reflecting on them all. I invite all of them assembled here, in the most cordial way to unite in our work for the benefit of our fellowmen, for the good of the world in which we live, a world full of threats and anxiety, but one in which there waves a banner of peace and harmony.

I want to emphasize that from now on I don't feel any obligation to a special Society or to a group of Societies. I am the Chairman of the international movement and I am to care for all the National Societies of the world.

I thank all who have placed their confidence in me and I assure you that I desire to work with the same enthusiasm and devotion for Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe and America.

To all the small National Societies and those with problems I offer my unconditional help; to all the large and well organized Societies I ask them to help us to help.

The International Committee is most pleased by this appointment and wishes every success to the chairmanship of Mr. José

#### IN GENEVA



Mr. Barroso Chavez, new Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League, visiting the ICRC and signs the institution's Gold Book. (On left, Mr. Gonard, right, Mr. Beer, Secretary General of the League.)



Inauguration of the monument erected to the memory of Elsa Brandström. The President of the Austrian Red Cross, Mr. von Lauda delivering an address during the ceremony.

Barroso Chavez, whom Mr. Gonard had the opportunity of meeting in Mexico and also of welcoming to its headquarters when he visited Geneva in September.

It will retain good memories of Mr. MacAulay's chairmanship with him the institution's directorate always had the best of relations and he largely contributed to the League's constant development.

The new Chairman of the League's Board of Governors returned to Geneva after the Vienna Conference and honoured the ICRC with a further visit.<sup>1</sup>

#### LEAGUE ANNUAL REPORT

The League of Red Cross Societies has just issued its Annual Report for 1964. Clear and uncramped in layout, the 35 large size pages of this report are illustrated with fine photographs depicting the activities described in each chapter.

The contents include: Development Programme; Relief; Health and Social Service; Nursing; Junior Red Cross; Information and Publications; International Relations.

Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General, gives in the preface a summary of the main tasks which confronted the League in 1964. The main passages are quoted below:

The first year of the Red Cross movement's second century of existence was very different from 1963, when it celebrated the hundredth anniversary of its foundation. In 1964, hard facts took the place of tributes to its glorious history, events illustrating a hundred years' activities in the service of mankind, the countless proofs of confidence in its future inspired by this commemoration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Plate: Mr. Barroso signing the ICRC's Gold Book.

#### IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

True, it still felt the spur of the Centenary and important decisions of the Centenary Congress were implemented. But above all the League took cognizance of the role it can and should play in the vast sphere of activities open to the Red Cross in the world today. It faced the facts realistically, objectively, without veiling the difficulties inherent in limited resources.

One of the first tasks was to adapt its means to increasing demands from young, and less young Societies, in process of organisation or development. From the autumn of 1964, the League Red Cross Development Programme extended a network of delegates and technical experts over the whole world. Africa, Asia and Latin America were the main scenes of field work and appreciable material assistance in the form of instruction, information and relief.

New avenues also opened up for Health, Social Service, Nursing and Home Nursing, and Junior activities. The discussions at the Centenary Congress and the various international meetings which had taken place in connection with the Centenary celebrations started to bear fruit. National Societies which had not really known each other before established durable relations and valuable cooperation. This led to a series of international, and especially, regional gatherings during the year. Two regional Seminars were organised in Latin America, one at Lima, the other at Santiago de Chile, assembling all the Societies of this Continent. The South East Asian and Pacific Red Cross Forum in Australia proved as successful as its predecessor, the Founex International Centre.

Many new Societies are evolving. This redoubled efforts to draw up a first detailed Development Programme for the beginning of 1965, in application of the Board of Governors' Resolution (1963, No. 6). It was a thrilling achievement, conforming to the needs of the Societies concerned, but not without some danger from the financial angle . . .

Nevertheless, the League derived real satisfaction from this session of the Executive Committee. The large number of delegates in attendance and the excellent atmosphere of the discussions were a new proof of the Federation's interest in Red Cross affairs.

Interesting, even bold suggestions were made at the meetings of the Advisory Committees preceding the Executive Committee's session. The Junior Red Cross Committee, for instance, requested the Secretariat to draw up a 5-year Junior Red Cross programme for incorporation in the League Development Programme.

Although there were fewer disasters in 1964, the League Relief Bureau nevertheless continued to carry out its "emergency centre" duties. It was also able to make a new detailed study of the League's role in the field of relief and in particular of the question of assistance to refugees.

In this connection the League this year terminated important relief actions such as those for the Rwanda refugees in the Congo (Kivu Province) and Tanzania or the Red Cross Feeding Programme for child victims of the Skopje earthquake.

Finally, disaster relief was the subject of an important debate of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and U Thant, the Secretary General of the United Nations, again expressed his complete confidence in the League Relief Service.

The already close collaboration between the League and the United Nations and its specialized Agencies was still further developed this year, when International Co-operation Year and the Hunger, Disease and Illiteracy campaigns were in full development . . .

Local conflicts of a more or less serious nature broke out in 1964. These called for the never-failing presence of the Red Cross when man is stricken by misfortune in any shape of form. But in an era of progress, everyone must join also in establishing decent social, human and moral conditions for the underprivileged. It is urgent for the world to grasp and shoulder its responsibilities towards the hungry, the sick and illiterate.

With the support of its millions of members, the Red Cross will devote its energies to this twofold task.

#### THE ICRC IN ACTION

This is the general theme of the second quarterly review, 1965, *The Red Cross World* (vol. XLV, No. 2, 1965) published by the League. This issue is devoted entirely to action in the field by the International Committee of the Red Cross in defence of humanity amidst the throes of war.

This illustrated world publication gives a report on an interview with Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the ICRC. In reply to one of the questions put to him, "What do you see emerging as the principal tasks and opportunities for the work of the ICRC in Africa?", he replied:

"The ICRC is concerned about Africa in view of the threat of conflicts and disorders hanging over this continent. Above all we hope to see a return to peace and justice. However, we shall perhaps have to play our role of neutral intermediary yet again and must therefore make Africans understand the true nature of our humanitarian task. Yet I am certain that the Red Cross has many enthusiastic friends in Africa for whom our ideal of solidarity corresponds to their deepest hopes. In this connection the ICRC greatly appreciates the remarkable work accomplished by the League in Africa, aimed at helping young National Societies with their development."

After reviewing some of the main problems confronting the ICRC today, Mr. Gonard concluded:

"Our Institution has many other problems to face, but lack of space makes it impossible to list them all. One of them, however, deserves special mention, that of defending the universality and cohesion of the International Red Cross. It is our duty to do everything in our power to keep our humanitarian movement free from political controversy; this demands constant vigilance and a great deal of firmness."

The next article is an interview with the Head of the ICRC's Relief Section, Mr. Ch. Ammann; he tells why men are drawn to service as delegates of the International Committee and what holds them in this difficult and often dangerous career.

Next, Mr. Pierre Gaillard, who is himself a delegate, recalls some personal experiences in the service of the ICRC in the Yemen, in Palestine, in Algeria and in other countries. In reply to the question: "How does an ICRC delegate gain the confidence of prisoners and camp commandants?", Mr. Gaillard recalls some of the dramatic situations with which a delegate must contend in his every day work.

Mr. Léopold Boissier analyzes the steps taken by the ICRC in 1962 during his presidency, when it accepted the request of U Thant, United Nations Secretary-General, to act as intermediary in the Cuba crisis. "The Committee", he said, "considered the appeal made to it with the full approval of such States as the United States of America and the Soviet Union as a mark of confidence. This confidence, which it values highly, has led it to redouble its efforts to achieve the universality of the Red Cross movement. It was therefore not a turning point but a flowering of the work created by Henry Dunant".

Mr. J. Pictet, ICRC Director for General Affairs, examines some of the future problems relating to the Geneva Conventions and the Red Cross in general. In connection with the protection of civilians, Mr. Pictet said: "The development of modern weapons, the more total character of war and the amazing discoveries in the field of nuclear physics have hung grave threats over civilian populations, which the Geneva Conventions leave unprotected against such dangers. Despite the enormous advances in the techniques of war, the legal rules governing the use of weapons date back to 1907... and the first aerial bombardment took place in 1911. This is of course absurd. The ICRC has not given up hope of seeing States reach agreement one day on certain rules limiting the dangers incurred by civilians due to modern methods of warfare.

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This again is a very difficult undertaking for it represents no less than an attack on war itself."

The review concludes with "a letter to a young ICRC delegate" by Mr. Pierre Boissier, in which he describes in what circumstances the young delegate will carry out the task entrusted to him, the difficulties with which he must contend and the satisfaction which will be his when he achieves something for the benefit of war victims. The text of the letter is as follows:

#### Dear Friend,

Here you are, crammed with knowledge. You have studied the four Geneva Conventions: 429 articles in all. You have been duly briefed on the principles of the Red Cross and its organisation (horribly complicated). For some months now, I have passed you in our red-carpeted corridors, looking very serious, with files under your arm.

And now man's folly has taken the upper hand again: a conflict has just broken out. Our directors, of course, are discussing it on their Mount Olympus and the man responsible for that particular geographical area has started to miss his six o'clock bus. But for you, as for most of us, it was still only an item of news in the papers.

From one moment to the next, it became your personal problem. You have been chosen to go, accompanying an experienced delegate. The time has come for your first mission.

You know a lot... and you known nothing.

As a Swiss you know nothing of war. You will meet it at close quarters. Will you like it? Perhaps, like many of those who wage it. You have never seen a people or a town fomented by passion, swept along on a tide of emotion, roused by adventure...

But, above all, like Dunant at Castiglione, you will see the sombre side of war. You will see the wounded, the dead, and worse, the stinking

dead. It could be that, after negotiating a brief and fragile suspension of the fighting, you will be the first to venture between the lines to get to the wounded. Quite a number of your colleagues have done it before you, sometimes dodging bullets. And because you are no fool you will discover fear, an icy grip in the pit of your stomach.

You will penetrate into strange worlds. To begin with the prisoner-of-war camps. You will visit them thoroughly: dormitories, kitchens, refectories, infirmaries, washing and lavatory facilities. You will speak to the prisoners, without witnesses. Sometimes this takes several days. Interviews with the prisoners' representative and the camp commander could be tricky, for tension sometimes runs high. Your presence in this barbed-wire enclosure must signify to the prisoners that they are not-forgotten and that the Red Cross has the power to reach them wherever they may be. It will be up to you to give the armband that you will wear on your left arm all its symbolic meaning.

Even stranger is the world of the prison; the prison with its smell of urine, cabbage, sweat and disinfectant; the prison with its sinister silence of anguish and waiting, broken only by the slamming of locks and the dragging footsteps of slow-moving and hopeless fatigue parties. You will see grey men, and, in their cells, those condemned to death, and the chains and the handcuffs and tangibly present, although invisible, the gallows or the firing squad.

Here, where speech is rare, the words you choose will have more weight, more value, more importance than anywhere else. Choose them well.

Actually you asked for my advice. This is the advice I received myself from an older delegate.

You will spend your time in obtaining: obtaining access to such and such a place, obtaining free passage for relief supplies, obtaining the release or exchange of prisoners.

Before you approach the person on whom the decision depends, always ask yourself this: what have I to offer him? You will almost always find something, even if it is only the fact that the Committee also looks after the war victims of his own side. Start with that, not

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with the idea of bargaining, but to establish your mission, which is to be the spokesman of all those crushed by war. You will see that the doors will open. And you will call that the Red Cross miracle.

So good-by, dear Friend, and good luck!

P. Boissier.

#### WORLD RED CROSS DAY

No Frontiers for Red Cross has been chosen as the theme for the next World Red Cross Day which will take place on May 8, 1966. World-wide focus will be on the Red Cross Principle of Universality.

The truly distinctive character of Red Cross is that it has achieved in a practical manner the universality which no other movement has been able to attain.

Today our world is enveloped in a Red Cross network so interlaced and interrelated that no country, indeed no man, lies outside its reach or influence. The potential of this organisational structure is challenging to the imagination.

The Red Cross principle of Universality is simply but unmistakeably stated: "The Red Cross is a world-wide institution in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other."

It is encouraging to note that today Red Cross people look beyond the boundaries of their communities, even of their countries, to help as they can others in distant lands whom they will probably never know or even see.

#### IN MEMORY OF ELSA BRANDSTRÖM

A moving ceremony in Vienna's Arne Karlsson park on September 16, 1965, preceded the official opening of the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross. In the presence of Austrian civilian and military authorities, members of the Swedish colony, leaders of the Austrian Red Cross and many delegates to the XXth International Conference, a monument to Elsa Brandström was unveiled. This monument, by the sculptor Robert Ullmann, stands as a testimony of gratitude to the famous Swedish nurse's work for Austrian prisoners during the First World War.

After a musical rendering by the band and an address of welcome by the architect Mr. Hans Jaksch, Professor Hans Weiland described the life and work of she who was called "The Angel from Siberia". He himself had been one of the prisoners whom she had tended, comforted and saved.

As the monument was unveiled, a girl student declared, in the name of the youth of today, that she would be guided by her noble example, that the great values of charity and dedication to service for one's neighbour will remain alive. Then Dr. Hans Lauda, President of the Austrian Red Cross, gave an address in which he underlined one of Elsa Brandström's most cherished wishes: that men would learn to know and help one another more and more. She knew the value of the ties established among men and she desired their extension among the nations. It was in love for one's neighbour that she perceived salvation for future humanity. "Is it not moving", asked the speaker, "that after forty years and more, the men to whom this woman brought help have never forgotten her? Whoever has not known captivity, never existed for year

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Plate: Inauguration of the Elsa Brandström monument.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

after year without news of his mother, his wife or his children, cannot appreciate what Elsa Brandström did for Austrian prisoners of war in distant lands and what she did towards their repatriation". She had, in fact, brought their mortality rate down to 18 % from the 80 % which it had reached before her activities began. It will be recalled that with the proceeds of her book Bland Kriks-fångar I Russland och Siberien (With Prisoners of War in Russia and Siberia) she founded a rehabilitation centre for seriously wounded repatriated soldiers and converted property into a home for children.

Other speakers, were Mgr. May and Count Carl Gustav Bielke, the Swedish chargé d'affaires, who thanked the Association of Former Austrian Prisoners of War for having perpetuated his compatriots' name, and Dr. Glück who, on behalf of the Mayor of Vienna, expressed the city's gratitude.

After a song followed by a minute's silence, the crowd listened to the Swedish and Austrian anthems. Former prisoners thronged around the monument to gaze upon the likeness of she who had alleviated their distress in their darkest hour.

M. I.

## INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUY ON THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The General Secretariat of the Council of Europe had invited the International Committee of the Red Cross to send a representative to the Second International Colloquy on the European Convention on Human Rights.

The colloquy, organized by the Vienna University Faculty of Law in conjunction with the General Secretariat of the Council of Europe, took place in the Austrian capital from October 18-20,1965.

The ICRC was represented by Mr. Jean Pictet, Director for General Affairs.

#### RELIEF TO PALESTINE REFUGEES

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is a special, temporary, non-political body established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1949. In co-operation with the host governments it carries out its twofold task: first, to provide food, health and welfare services and shelter for the refugees; second, to provide education and training to refugee children and young adults, including general education, vocational and teacher training, and university scholarships.

UNRWA began its work in May 1950. After fifteen years, on June 30, 1965, the number of refugees registered with the Agency was 1,280,823. In its publication An UNRWA Newsletter (July-August 1965) it gives details on the present situation of the Palestine refugees. The following article describes the circumstances of the refugees who have found shelter in Jordan.

When the winter rains come this year, 500 more refugee families in Jordan will have a solid roof over their heads—some of them for the first time in many years.

The refugees, numbering more than 2,500, have recently completed the move into new shelters built by UNRWA with funds donated by the New Zealand Council of Organizations for Relief Services Overseas. This contribution of £25,000 enabled UNRWA to undertake two rehousing projects, providing new accommodation for many refugees in a small village near Jerusalem, and extending a refugee camp near Nablus to shelter refugees who had been living in caves and squatters' settlements around the town.

The 125 refugee families who moved into new shelters in Ain Arik had been among the most poorly-housed refugees in Jordan, living in makeshift mud huts near the village. Most of the huts were less than six feet high, with no windows, and were in such bad condition that they afforded little shelter from rain or sun. The refugees assisted UNRWA by demolishing their old shelters, and then lived in tents supplied by the Agency while the new huts were being built.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The second rehousing project is in the area of Nablus, the town that forms the centre of Biblical Samaria, 30 miles North of Jerusalem. Nablus, like most towns in Jordan, received a large influx of Arab refugees during and immediately following the 1948 conflict. As the years passed, most were able to find adequate shelter, either in refugee camps or in the town itself. But others remained in extremely bad living conditions. Many refugees lived until recently in squatters' settlements of makeshift shacks patched together from cardboard, flattened oil drums or whatever material they could find, and a number had lived for years in the caves in the rocky hills around Nablus.

The donation from the New Zealand Council enabled UNRWA to extend its Askar refugee camp near Nablus, providing concrete huts for 377 refugee families.

With only limited funds at its disposal for shelter construction, UNRWA tries to improve the living conditions of those in greatest need. However, the need is always greater than the available funds, so that all donations are the more gratefully received.

## EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.<sup>1</sup>

- ART. 2. As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.
- ART. 3. The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva. Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be "Inter arma caritas".
  - ART. 4. The special rôle of the ICRC shall be:
- (a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely: impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term "National Red Cross Societies" includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in cooperation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;
- (//) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its rôle as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any questions requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.



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- IRAQ Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, Baghdad.
- IRELAND Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row, Dublin.
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- JAMAICA Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, Kingston 5.
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